

Agudama Town,
Yenaogoa,
10th April, 2008.

The Secretary-General,
Ijaw Youth Council (IYC),
Otiotio Road,
Yenizue-Gene,
Yenagoa.

Sir,

I am an indigene of Opokuma Town in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, and I am into sand supply business.

I wish to inform you of the ugly incident I encountered with an army officer at the **Chino Décor** site along Alamieyeseigha Way, Ovom, Yenagoa where I supply sand.

We used to pay union dues (i.e. National Union of Tippers) but on the 1st of April, 2008, I did not pay my dues. On the following day being Wednesday, 2nd April, 2008, I decided to pay all the dues. As I took the first trip of sand to the site, the soldier (Army officer) serving as security sent a boy to meet me for their security and marching ground fees and I asked him how much I would pay. The boy said **One Thousand naira (₦ 1,000)**, that is, **Five Hundred naira (₦ 500)** for him for marching ground and **Five Hundred naira (₦ 500)** for the army officer. There and then I counted **One Thousand naira (₦ 1,000)** and gave to the boy. On seeing that I had given the money to the boy, the soldier went away. Thereafter I went and paid my union dues of **One Thousand, Seven Hundred naira (₦ 1,700)**.

On coming back for the second trip, I saw a young man beckoning on us to come down and I told him that I have paid my dues. I then asked my driver to reverse the tipper for us to tip the sand, and in the process I saw the boy whom I paid the money to and he said I had paid so there was no problem.

The driver tipped the sand accordingly and as we were coming out my driver told me that the soldier said we should come down – the same soldier who asked the boy to collect the money from me. I obeyed and came down from the motor. As I walked towards him, he was also moving towards me. The soldier said he wanted the driver to come down, so I asked my driver to obey. While my driver was about coming down, the soldier had already gone to the vehicle trying to force the door open. I told him that I have paid the dues, and I moved a little bit after he had hit me on my back with his gun. As I was moving away, he hit me on my back again when I said “which kain wahala be dis”. He thereafter hit me for the third time but I tried to prevent my face. The fourth time he hit me, I did not cover my face but I only looked at him and he

then accused me that I wanted to drag his gun with him. Before I could say anything, what I saw was that he pulled the trigger and shot my left leg. My driver then asked him why he had to shoot me, the soldier did not answer but rather phoned his boss that somebody was dragging his gun with him and that he had shot him. I became unconscious thereafter.

According to my driver, he (my driver) succeeded to bring me to the roadside where a Good Samaritan took me to the **Federal Medical Centre (FMC)**, Yenagoa. I gained consciousness at the FMC and later I was taken to the **Gloryland Medical Centre**, Yenagoa, where my left leg was amputated and as I write this letter, I am still in the hospital. The attached picture shows my present predicament.

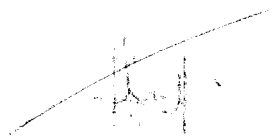
In view of the above, I want the **Ijaw Youth Council (IYC)** to help me prevail on the Government who invited the soldier to the state and also the company who engaged the soldier as security to take the full responsibility of my situation. I was up to that fateful day, an able man but now I am disabled without committing any crime/offence.

Therefore I want the Government to give me a sustainable job and also a damage fee of **Twenty Million naira (₦ 20,000,000)** in conjunction with the company.

Also, the Nigerian Army should be responsible for all the medical expenses. Furthermore, I need a foreign leg to be provided within the next three (3) weeks. In addition, the army officer in question should be brought to book accordingly.

Thank you for coming to my aid.

Yours Faithfully,



WOYENGIMIEBI A. IGONIDERIGHA